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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/03/2019  
TAGS: [UNSC](#) [PREL](#) [GG](#) [UK](#)  
SUBJECT: UK OPPOSES ABKHAZ INVITATION TO FORMAL UNSC  
MEETING; PREFERS NO ARRIA-STYLE MEETING

REF: STATE 9400

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard M. Mills for reasons 1.4 (b)  
and (d).

11. (C) HMG concurs with the U.S. position (ref) strongly opposing Abkhaz leadership participation in UN Security Council meetings under Rule 39. According to FCO Director for Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia Michael Davenport and Head of Georgia Section Jonathan Dart the UK, like France, is also "in no hurry" to agree to an Arria-style meeting, but feels that such an arrangement would be a minor concession given past uses (Kosovo) of this procedural convention.

12. (C) Davenport underlined that the UK would not rule out the Arria-style arrangement "if useful," i.e. if it secured UNOMIG rollover and could be used to leverage further concessions from Russia. Dart added that the Abkhazia leadership has been forward leaning on UNOMIG in the past. He said that UK and U.S. missions would continue to be in close contact on this issue.

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